

Party and Team Suites *Available for Rental Now!*

WHATEVER THE OCCASION, JACOBS FIELD SUITES,
ACCOMMODATING GROUPS FROM 12 TO 50,
ARE THE PERFECT LOCATION.

Birthday or Anniversary Celebration

Client Entertainment

Family Reunion

Rehearsal Dinner

Employee Recognition for a Job Well Done

Get-together with Friends

216.420.4497 OR **indians.com**

CREDITS

Cleveland Indians

Project Managers:
Kate Buddenhagen & Curtis Danburg

Graphic Design

Contemporary Design Group, Inc
Contributing Designers:
Eric Bockmuller, Renée DeLuca Dolan,
Aaron McCann, Nicole Morinec,
Louis Trempe

Photography

Dan Mendlik,
Gregory Drezdson

Contributing Writers

Anthony Castrovince,
Chuck Murr, and Tim Piai

Printing

The Press of Ohio
Brimfield, Ohio



injured on Oct. 17, 1977.

Thornton showed remarkable resolve. He powered 28, 33 and 26 homers while totaling 268 RBI his first three years in Cleveland for a team that won only 71, 69 and 81 games during that time. On April 22, 1978, Thornton became one of the few men in team history to hit for the cycle (a home run, triple, double and single in the same game).

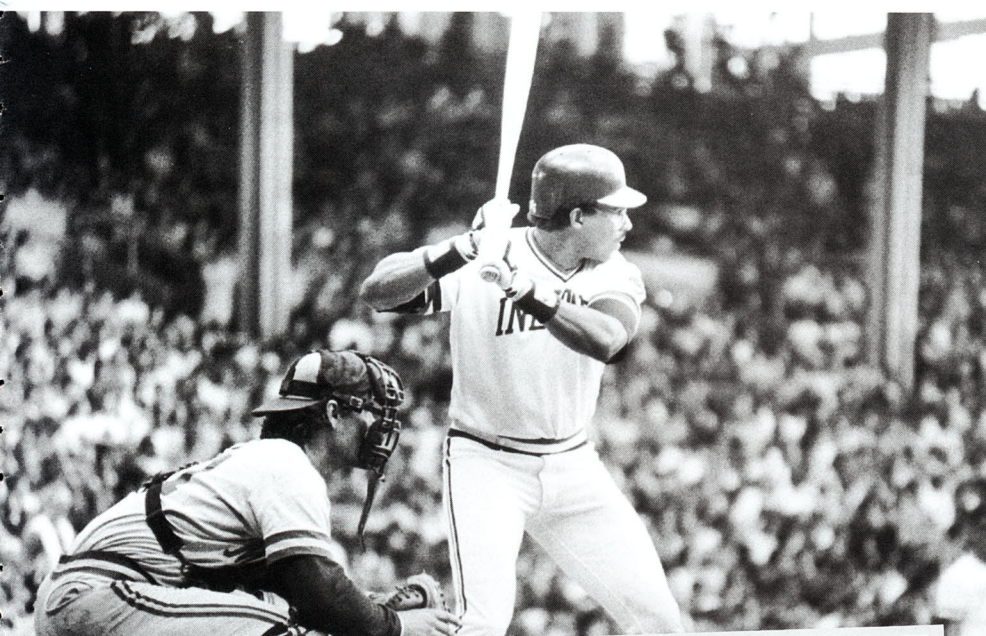
"Whenever I face the Indians, I only worry about one thing," Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer of the Baltimore Orioles said. "I don't want to face Andre Thornton late in a close game. If I do, I'll walk him. He can change a 1-0 win into a 2-1 loss with one swing."

The Orioles certainly followed that philosophy on May 2, 1984, when they walked Thornton six times in a game. He and Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx are the only players since 1900 to have that happen.

Thornton had more walks than strikeouts over the course of his career, including a career-high 109 during his most rewarding season of 1982 when he had 32 homers and 116 RBI. It was most rewarding because Thornton had missed all of 1980 and most of 1981 after knee surgeries, yet came back in '82 to make the All-Star Team for the first time, winning The Sporting News Comeback Player of the Year Award. He made it again in 1984, when he had 33 homers and 99 RBI.

"I gave the Indians the best I could for as long as I could," Thornton said. And few would quibble. He is among all-time team leaders in many offensive categories with 214 homers, 419 extra-base hits, 1,954 total bases, a .453 slugging percentage, and 749 RBI.

Thornton's deep faith and sense of community earned him the prestigious Roberto Clemente Award in 1979 and the Danny Thompson Memorial Award for exemplary Christian spirit in baseball in 1978.



ANDRE THORNTON CAREER FOURTEEN SEASONS

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	IBB	BA	OBP	SLG
1565	5291	792	1342	244	22	253	895	48	37	876	851	69	.254	.360	.452

HALL OF FAME

NAPOLEON LAJOIE, 2B (1902-14)

Baseball Hall of Famer won three of his five batting titles in Cleveland. Was so popular the club was named (Naps) for him (1903-14). Was 397-330 as player-manager (1905-09). Hit .338 in career (1896-1916) and is among all-time leaders in many categories. Inducted 1951.

BOB LEMON, RHP (1946-58)

Baseball Hall of Famer, seven-time All-Star and seven-time 20-game winner had one no-hitter, 31 shutouts and went 207-128 with 22 saves in 460 games. Went 2-0 in '48 World Series. Converted infielder also hit 37 career homers. His uniform No. 21 is retired. Inducted 1960.

AL LOPEZ, C-MGR (1947, 1951-56)

Baseball Hall of Famer won 1954 AL pennant and had five second-place finishes in six seasons as Tribe manager. Winning percentage of .617 (570-354) is best in club history. Totaled 1,140 career wins as manager. "El Senor" played 19 seasons. Inducted 2006.

SAM McDOWELL, LHP (1961-71)

"Sudden Sam" led AL in strikeouts five times (1965-66, 68-70) and in ERA (2.18) in 1965. Fanned 2,159 in 2,109 innings for Tribe, going 122-109 with 2.99 ERA. Six-time All-Star had career-best 1.81 ERA in 1968. Inducted 2006.

STEVE O'NEILL, C (1911-23)

Spent first 13 years of 17-year career in Cleveland. At peak of career as a fine fielding catcher (1920-22), he also hit .321, .322 and .311. Played in 1,365 games for Indians and had a 199-168 record as the team's manager, 1935-37. Inducted 1951.

LEROY (SATCHEL) PAIGE, RHP (1948-49)

Baseball Hall of Famer. No player made such an impact on Cleveland in as short a time. An incredible fan favorite, he went 6-1 with 2.48 ERA and two memorable shutouts as a 41-year-old rookie in 1948 after decades of pitching in Negro League. Inducted 1965.

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

KENNY LOFTON

Wins A.L. Stolen Base Title
Five Straight Seasons
1992 - 1996

CARLOS BAERGA

Homers From Both Sides
Of The Plate In The Same Inning
April 8, 1993 - 7th Inn - V NYY

INDIANS FANS

Set MLB Record
With 455 Straight Sellouts
June 12, 1995 To April 4, 2001

ALBERT BELLE

Becomes 1st Indians Player
To Hit 50 HRs
Sept 30, 1995

TONY PENA

Game-Winning HR
In A.L. Division Series Game
Oct 3, 1995



Charles Harrison Nagy

Right-hand pitcher

Cleveland Indians (1990-2002); San Diego Padres (2003)

Born: May 5, 1967 in Bridgeport, Conn.

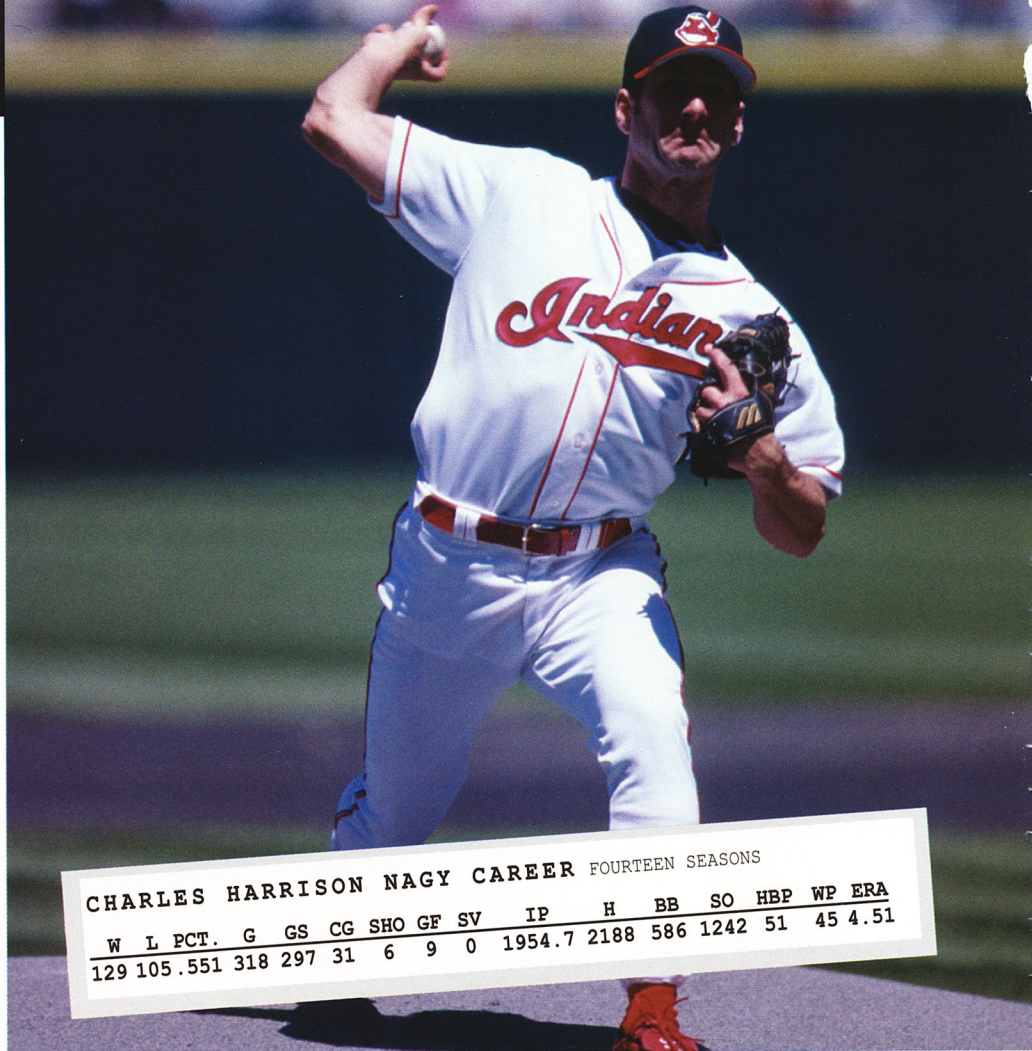
Nagy shares the same humble yet fiercely competitive demeanor of his three fellow inductees. Low key and with a deadpan sense of humor, he was among the most admired players during a period in which the Indians enjoyed unprecedented success and popularity.

"Charlie's not an extrovert, but when you know him you realize there is a big-time fire within," former Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. "I've seen a lot of winning players on losing teams and I've seen losing players on winning teams. But I have never seen many guys like Charlie Nagy who are winners through and through. Inside, he's a winner."

A first-round draft pick in 1988 after pitching for the University of Connecticut and the U.S. Olympic Team, Nagy made his big-league debut two years later and by 1992 was an American League All-Star, going 17-10 with a 2.96 ERA. His single off John Smoltz (as a left-handed batter) that year was the first hit by a pitcher in an All-Star Game in 29 years. In August of that year, he allowed only a seventh-inning infield single in a 6-0 win at Baltimore.

He hurt his shoulder and went only 2-6 the next season before having surgery. Then from Oct. 3, 1993 until May 16, 2000, Nagy made 192 consecutive starts as one of the game's most reliable right-handers. Over that span, he went 91-51, pitched in 12 post-season games, was selected to two AL All-Star teams and joined 300-game winner Greg Maddux as the only pitchers to win 15 or more games every season from 1995 through 1999.

In 1995, Nagy went 16-6, then pitched two great games in the AL playoffs (1-0, 1.20 ERA) to help Cleveland into the World Series for the first time in 41 years. In 1996, he again was an All-Star with a 17-5 record. And he went 15-11 in 1997 to help the Indians back to the World Series.



CHARLES HARRISON NAGY CAREER														FOURTEEN SEASONS		
W	L	PCT.	G	GS	CG	SHO	GF	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	HBP	WP	ERA	
129	105	.551	318	297	31	6	9	0	1954.7	2188	586	1242	51	45	4.51	

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

He went 15-10 and 17-11 the next two seasons to help Cleveland continue its playoff streak before hurting his elbow early in the 2000 season. After surgery, the doctor told him there was nothing more the medical profession could do for him. "He basically said, 'You've got no cartilage left in there, it is bone on bone now and is going to hurt like hell,'" Nagy said. "He told me, 'Whatever pain you can stand, that's how much you can pitch.'"

He kept pitching. And hurting. He went to the Minors on rehab assignment, pitching a one-hitter. "My arm hurt on every pitch," he said. "I thought it was going to fall off."

He made it back to Cleveland, but went only 5-6 in 2001 and 1-4 in 2002, giving everything he had in an effort to regain his form. He got a standing ovation after striking out Kansas City Royals rookies

Angel Berroa and Kit Pellow as the final two batters he faced in an Indians uniform.

"Well, it was better than being hit hard and being taken off the mound," Nagy said in his typical self-deprecating style.

Nagy tried one last comeback in 2003 with San Diego, spending much of the season in the minors and going 0-2 in five relief appearances before finally retiring. He joined the Indians' front office as an advisor and is now a pitching coach for the Los Angeles Angels' Triple-A farm team in Salt Lake City.

"I guess I'd like to be remembered as a guy who came to the park every day and did his best," Nagy recently said.

That will happen in 2007 when he and three others will be the newest members of the Indians Hall of Fame. ♥

Memorable Moments

SANDY ALOMAR

All-Star Game MVP

July 8, 1997



MARQUIS GRISSOM "STEALS" HOME

When Omar Vizquel "Misses"

Suicide Squeeze Bunt

Tribe Beats Orioles, 2-1

Game 3 Of 1997 A.L.C.S.

TONY FERNANDEZ

Homers To Win

A.L. Championship Series

Oct 15, 1997 At Baltimore

JOLBERT CABRERA

Singles In The 14th Inning
To Cap Tribe's Amazing Comeback
From 14-2 Deficit In 7th Inning
Tribe Wins 15-14 In 11 Innings
August 5, 2001 V Seattle

anniversaries

60th ANNIVERSARY

Larry Doby's integration of American League on July 3, 1947

1947

50th ANNIVERSARY

Roger Maris' first HR (April 16, 1957)

1957

35th ANNIVERSARY

Gaylord Perry's Cy Young Award-winning season of 1972 (24-16/1.92ERA)

1972

30th ANNIVERSARY

Dennis Eckersley's no-hitter vs Angels (May 30, 1977)
Duane Kuiper's only HR of his career (Aug. 29, 1977)

1977

20th ANNIVERSARY

Cory Snyder (May 21), Joe Carter (May 28) and Brook Jacoby (July 3) each hitting 3 HR in one game during 1987 season.

Joe Carter's 30-30 (32 homers, 31 steals) season

1987

10th ANNIVERSARY

1997 American League Champions
Jacobs Field site of All-Star Game. Sandy Alomar Jr.'s All-Star Game homer & MVP honor.
Team-record eight homers in one game at Milwaukee (April 25).

1997

HALL OF FAME

AL ROSEN, 3B (1947-56)

Four-time All-Star and 1953 MVP (43 homers, 145 RBI, .336) twice led AL in homers, RBI and total bases. In last seven years (1950-56) before retiring at age 32, he averaged 27 homers, 86 runs, 102 RBI and a .287 average. Last Indian to win the MVP award. Inducted 2006.

HERB SCORE, LHP (1955-59)

AL Rookie of the Year (16-10, 2.85 ERA) in 1955 went 20-9, 2.53 ERA in '56. Two-time All-Star fanned 547 in first 512 innings before being hit in the eye by a batted ball in '57. Retired in '62 with 55-46 mark and spent 34 years as Tribe broadcaster. Inducted 2006.

JOE SEWELL, SS (1920-31)

Baseball Hall of Famer played 11 years in Cleveland, averaging .320 in 1,513 games. Struck out just 114 times in 7,132 career at-bats. Hit .353 with 109 RBI in '23. Led AL in doubles (45) in '24; topped AL shortstops in fielding percentage three times. Inducted 1951.

TRIS SPEAKER, OF-MGR (1916-26)

Baseball Hall of Famer, 1912 MVP and 1916 batting champ (.387) played 11 years in Cleveland and 22 years overall (1907-28). All-time leader in doubles (792, AL leader eight times) and outfield assists (449) with .344 career average and 3,515 hits. Inducted 1951.

HAL TROSKY, 1B (1933-41)

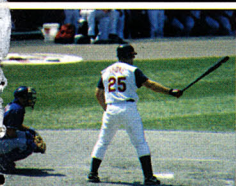
In 1,124 games with Cleveland (1933-41), he totaled 216 homers, 911 RBI and a .313 average. In 1936, he had career highs of 42 homers, 162 RBI, 124 runs and a .343 average. In a four-year span (1934-37) he averaged 34 homers and 136 RBI. Inducted 1951.

EARLY WYNN, RHP (1949-57, 1963)

Baseball Hall of Famer and 300-game winner pitched in three All-Star Games for Indians and six overall in 23-year career (1939-63). A 20-game winner four times in 10 years in Cleveland, his overall record with the Tribe was 164-102 with 10 saves and a 3.24 ERA. Inducted 1972.

CY YOUNG, RHP (1890-98, 1909-11)

Baseball Hall of Famer and all-time winningest pitcher (511 wins, 316 losses) went 241-135 for Cleveland Spiders. After two years in St. Louis and eight in Boston, returned to Cleveland and went 29-29 for Indians at ages 42-44. Best year in Cleveland was 1892 (36-12, 1.93 ERA, 453 innings pitched, 48 complete games in 49 starts). Inducted 1951.



JIM THOME
Club Record
52 Home Runs – 2002

C.C. SABATHIA
Earns 1st Career
Complete-Game Shutout
August 15, 2003

OMAR VIZQUEL
Collects 6 Hits
In 22-0 Win Over NYY
August 21, 2004

KEVIN KOUZMANOFF
MLB Record
Hits Grand Slam
On First Pitch In First ML At-Bat
Sept 2, 2006 At Texas

TRAVIS HAFNER
Ties MLB Record
Six Grand Slams
2006



WORLD SERIES
CHAMPIONS 1920 1948

AMERICAN LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS 1920 1948 1954 1995

CENTRAL DIVISION
CHAMPIONS 1995 1996

Relive 1997

By
Anthony Castrovine



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Mike Hargrove really wasn't sure what kind of team the 1997 Indians would be.

By Opening Day that season, Hargrove's club had changed almost beyond recognition. Though his Indians won 99 games in '96, they spent the winter revamping a team that lost to the Orioles in the first round of the playoffs.

Gone was Albert Belle, who followed the pull of more cash from the White Sox.

Gone, also, was Kenny Lofton, another rock from the '95 World Series team. He was dealt to the Braves before Spring Training camp broke.



JIM THOME

All photos: Gregory Drezdson

In their places stood David Justice and Marquis Grissom, both acquired from Atlanta. And the addition of third baseman Matt Williams dictated a move to first base for Jim Thome.

All this shuffling ensured the early days – and, to be sure, months – of the '97 campaign would pose a challenge for Hargrove, who, in his sixth full season at the helm, was hearing rumblings that his job might be on the line.

"The biggest challenge," he says now, "was taking a lot of new faces and trying to get them to gel. Anytime you change that many faces, the personality of the team will change. Chemistry and personality go hand-in-hand. A team has to find its identity."

And for the '97 Indians, the search for an identity took longer than expected.

AN UPHILL BATTLE

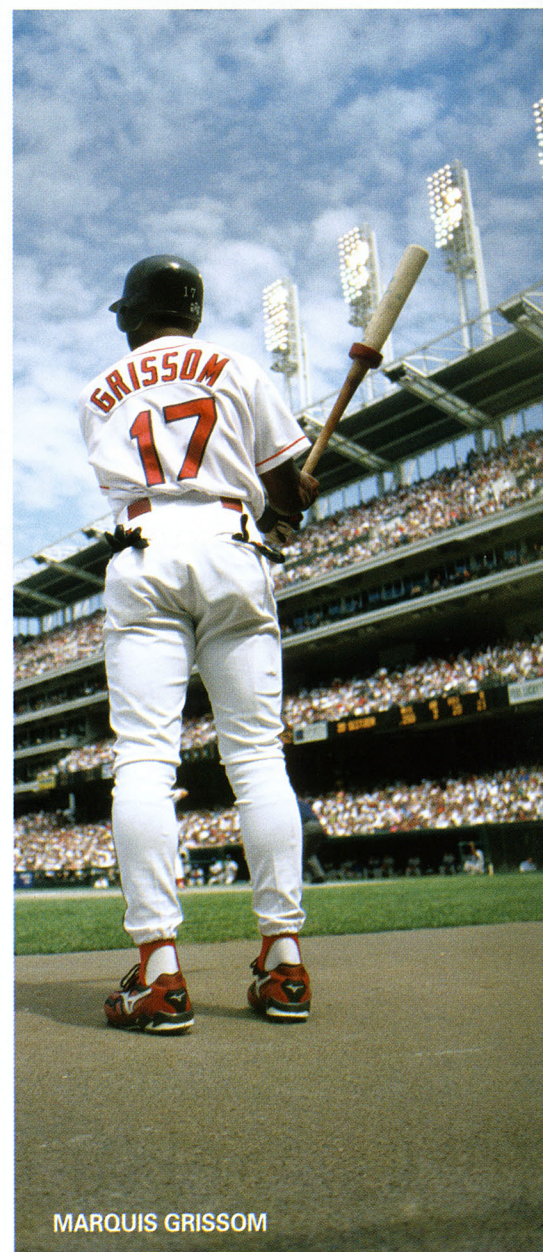
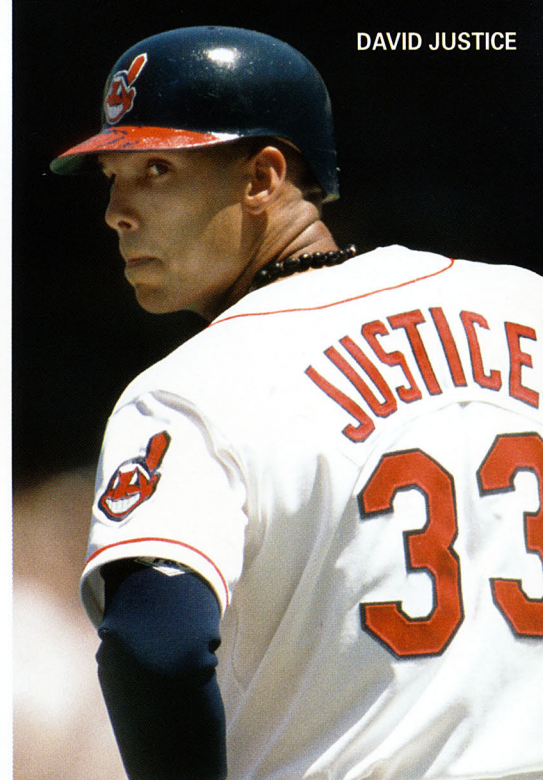
Maintaining a lead in the relatively weak American League Central wasn't much of a problem for the Indians that year. The Tribe held on to first place from May 18 through the remainder of the season.

Still, Indians fans had grown accustomed to seeing the club plow its way through the regular-season schedule.

That wasn't the case in '97.

"I think it was the most bizarre season of any of the playoff teams we had, because the club did not play very well for much of the year," says Indians broadcaster Tom Hamilton. "There was a lot of anxiety around that team all year. ... Sometimes we forget it's not that easy to win a division title."

As late as Aug. 13, the White Sox were within 2½ games of the Indians in the standings, with the Tribe just four games above .500.



MARQUIS GRISSOM

But while the slim margin couldn't be ignored, the true strength of the '97 team was its poise.

"I think the one thing we always did well in Cleveland in the years I was there is we didn't panic," Hargrove says. "We believed in what we were doing and the people we had, and we tried to impart that belief to the players."

The belief was that the chemistry would, at some point, catch on, and the magic that seemed to surround the Indians in the early years of the Jacobs Field era would win out.

Sure enough, it did. And it took a somewhat silly motivational tool to make it happen.

A SOCK-CESS STORY

On Aug. 27, the Indians had lost two games in a row and four of their last six. They were set to play the second of a two-game set in Anaheim against the Angels.

Thome wasn't in the lineup that day, but his teammates decided to honor him on his 27th birthday by hiking up their pant legs and revealing their socks. Down 3-0 early, the Indians erupted with a 10-run fourth.

With such an uplifting victory, the Indians could hardly ignore the mojo afforded them by the sock system. So they stuck with it for the rest of the season.

"It just took hold, and from that point on, we had great chemistry and the ball started rolling," Hargrove says. "As stupid as that sounds, that was the one thing everybody could grab a hold of."

The Indians won 16 of their next 26 games to win their third-straight division crown. The clincher came Sept. 23 at home

“THE INDIANS COULD HARDLY IGNORE
THE MOJO
AFFORDED THEM BY
THE SOCK SYSTEM.”

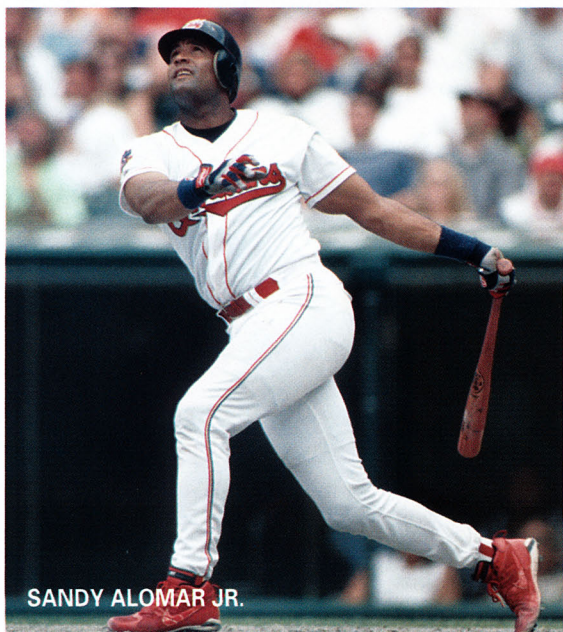


All photos: Gregory Drezdson

against the Yankees, the defending champs, when the Tribe erased a 9-2 deficit to win, 10-9.

Heading into the playoffs, however, it appeared the Indians were in line for another early ousting. Their 86-75 season record paled in comparison to that of the AL East-winning Orioles (98-64), the AL West-winning Mariners (90-72) and the Wild Card-winning Yankees (96-66).

What's worse, the vaunted Yankees were the Indians' first-round draw in the playoffs.



TOPPLING THE BRONX BOMBERS

In Game 1 of the ALDS, the Tribe scored five runs in the top of the first, but the Yanks tied it and then took the lead for good in the sixth with back-to-back-to-back homers.

Knowing his club was in danger of an early exit after an opening loss in the short series, Hargrove went with Jaret Wright over Charles Nagy to start Game 2. The reaction from some was merciless.

"I caught a lot of heat for that," Hargrove recalls.

Wright had gone 8-3 with a 4.38 ERA that season, but no one knew how the rookie would respond to such a daunting task as a must-win playoff game in Yankee Stadium. And when the Yankees scored three runs in the first, the answer seemed to be coming in painfully clear.

But Wright settled down and settled in. And when his offense picked him up with five runs in the fourth and two more in the

fifth on Williams' homer, he was well on his way to a 7-5 victory.

The series shifted to Cleveland, where David Wells' masterful complete game put the Tribe in a 2-1 hole.

The next night, the Indians found themselves down 2-1 in the eighth and a mere four outs from elimination. Closer Mariano Rivera was on the mound for the Yankees, and his reputation alone made a comeback seem improbable.

But the Indians couldn't have had a better option step to the plate than catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. His '97 season was instrumental in the Indians even getting to this point, as Alomar put up a career-best .324 average (aided by a month of June in which he got a hit in every game), 21 homers and 83 RBI. He even earned the MVP award at the Cleveland-hosted All-Star Game.

"Alomar's season was incredible," Hamilton says. "He just had one of those years you never duplicate. Every time we needed a big hit, Sandy got it." And he got it in this at-bat, sending Rivera's fastball over the right-field wall for the game-tying homer. It was one

The next night, Wright turned in another stellar start, the offense fed off its own momentum, and a 4-3 victory sent the Tribe to the ALCS.

"The big blow was the Alomar homer off Rivera," says pitcher Brian Anderson, the hometown boy who had joined the Indians that season. "That was really the catalyst. We knew that doesn't happen very often. A storied franchise has you on the ropes and then ... boom. We won that series, then it was just off we go."

SCOUTING OUT THE O'S

Off the Indians went to an ALCS against the league's best team – the Orioles. Once again, the Indians were underdogs, but the key to this series was their advance scouting of the boys from Baltimore.

"They were a very, very good ballclub," Hargrove says. "I felt like in the ALCS our advance scouts had done a really good job on them. They picked up on some things, and our guys were talented and intelligent enough to take advantage of situations."

"I can vividly remember Jim Thome coming out of that meeting and saying, 'If we get to Armando Benitez, we got 'em,'" Anderson recalls. "They must have had his pitches through the way he was setting his glove up or something."

The Indians backed up Thome's talk. Not once, not twice, but three times.

After a 3-0 loss in Game 1 at Baltimore, the Tribe found itself down 4-2 in the eighth of Game 2. Benitez was on the mound with two runners on, and Grissom's three-run homer gave the Tribe the go-ahead.

In Game 3, Orel Hershiser and Mike Mussina became embroiled in a pitchers' duel. The game went into extra innings in a 1-1 tie, setting up one of the more bizarre plays in playoff history.

With runners on the corners and one out, Vizquel tried to lay down a suicide squeeze and whiffed. But the ball bounced off catcher Lenny Webster's glove and rolled away, allowing Grissom to score from third for the winning run. Or, at least, that's how the play was called. The Orioles believed the ball fouled off Vizquel's bat.

All photos: Gregory Drezdson



of the most memorable moments in Jacobs Field history, and it kept the Tribe's hopes of a Game 5 alive.

An inning later, Omar Vizquel's base hit off the glove of Ramiro Mendoza scored Grissom to give the Indians the 3-2 win.

Believe it or not, the Indians were actually hoping to be in a situation where they could face Baltimore reliever Armando Benitez with the game on the line. Benitez was known for his 100 mph fastball, but the Indians seemed inspired by their reports on him.

"To this day," Hargrove says, "I don't know if anyone knows for sure whether that ball was fouled off or not."

OK, so it took a little luck sometimes. But at least the luck was on the side of the Indians in most instances.

"That, to me, was the most unpredictable October ever," Hamilton says. "Anything goofy that could happen, happened that year for the Indians, and most of it was good."

More good came in Game 4. After the Indians blew a 7-6 lead in the top of the ninth, Alomar again came through in the bottom of the inning with the game-winning hit off Benitez for an 8-7 victory.

Game 5 went to the Orioles, but when the series shifted back to Baltimore, the Indians were ready to lock up their second AL pennant in three years. And it took more good fortune.

Before Game 6, Tony Fernandez was taking cuts in batting practice when he hit a ball that bruised Bip Roberts' thumb. Roberts was the scheduled starter at second, but the bruise scratched him from the lineup. Fernandez replaced him.

Sure enough, in the 11th of a scoreless tie, Fernandez took Benitez deep for the game-winning homer.

For once, the championship-starved city of Cleveland appeared to have fate on its side.

"We felt like there was no stopping us," Anderson says. "We were going to win that World Series. No question."

And considering the Indians had gone through the fabled Yankees and the Orioles to get to this point, facing the Marlins, winners of the NL Wild Card, seemed tame in comparison.



All photos: Gregory Drezdson

FISHING FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

But the Indians got a taste of how dangerous the Marlins were in Game 1 in Miami. Hershiser gave up four runs in the fourth en route to a 7-4 loss.

The Tribe rebounded in Game 2, thanks to an impressive performance from Chad Ogea. He gave up a run in the first, but that was it over 6 ²/₃ innings. Alomar's homer in the sixth was the finishing touch in a 6-1 win.

Back in Cleveland, the Series began to take some bizarre turns. The Marlins strung together seven runs in the ninth of

Game 3 to go up 14-7. The Indians made it interesting with four runs in their last at-bat, but a complete comeback was not to be.

A Series set in southern Miami and northeast Ohio was bound to have some temperature swings, but no one anticipated just how cold it would be for Game 4. The game-time temp was a record-low 38 degrees.

The Indians' bats had no trouble heating up, though. By the end of the third, they had given Wright a 6-0 lead. Williams' homer into the left-field porch sealed the 10-3 win. The Series was tied.

In Game 5, Hershiser's struggles continued. The Tribe was ahead, 4-2, going into the sixth, but Hershiser gave up four runs in what ended as an 8-7 loss.

Back in Miami and facing elimination in Game 6, the Indians needed more October magic. They found it in one of the

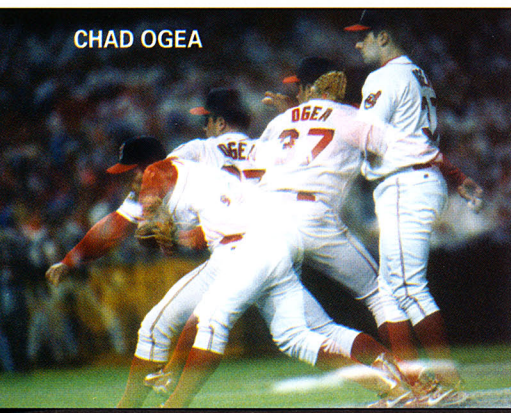
World Series' more memorable defensive gems.

In the sixth inning, the Indians led, 4-1. Mike Jackson was on in relief with runners on second and third, when Charles Johnson bounced a grounder to Vizquel's far right. The Gold Glove shortstop made a diving stop, stood up and made a perfect throw to first for the inning's final out.

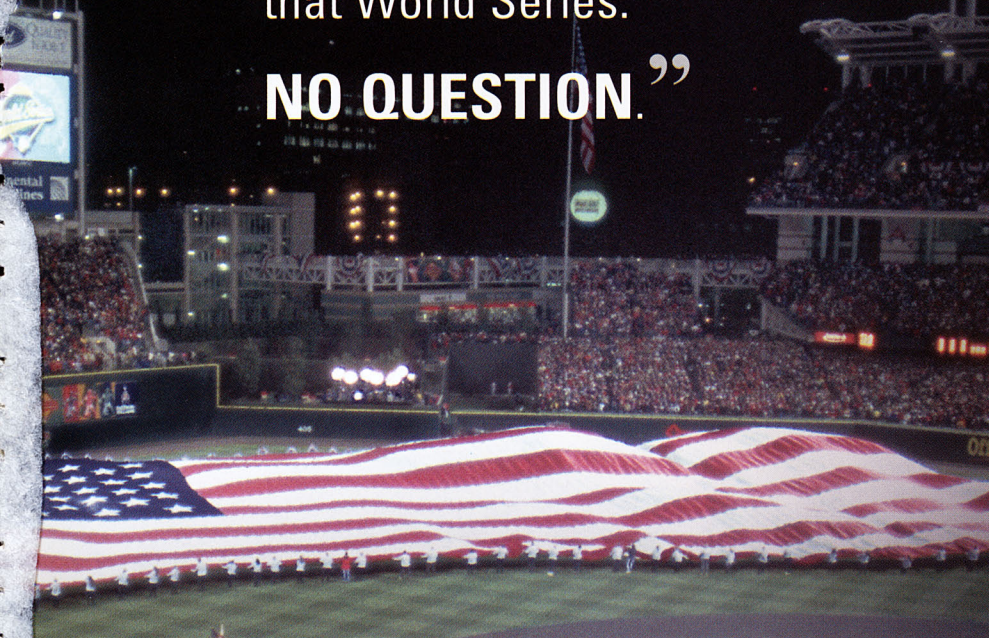
Had Vizquel not made that play, Johnson probably would have knocked in two runs, and the inning might have gotten out of hand. Instead, the play helped the Tribe preserve its lead and force a Game 7.

"It's one of the proudest moments in my career," Vizquel says. "Not only because we got to play Game 7, which is the most exciting thing that can happen to you. But with all the pressure, when you make a play like that and look back, I can't believe I made that play in that situation."

CHAD OGEA



“We felt like there was
NO STOPPING US...
 We were going to **WIN**
 that World Series.
NO QUESTION.”



All photos: Gregory Drezdson

NO SEVENTH HEAVEN

The Indians found themselves in the most dramatic of situations – one game, with the opportunity to end 49 years of waiting for baseball's ultimate prize. And after a strong start for Wright and Fernandez's two-run single in the third, the team found itself tantalizingly close to making that dream come true.

Then it all fell apart.

In the bottom of the ninth, with the Indians leading, 2-1, closer Jose Mesa, who had lost confidence in his fastball, ran into trouble. Moises Alou led off with a single, Johnson moved him to third with a one-out single, and Craig Counsell knocked in the tying run with a sacrifice fly to right.

Forget the fact that the World Series trophy had already been wheeled into the visitor's clubhouse. This game was far from over.

“It was like a stab right in your heart,” Vizquel says.

The game went into extras, and the Tribe players tried to recover from the ninth-inning disaster. But the sucker-punch to the gut lingered.

“Once they tied it, it was like the chances of us winning, even though we went into extra innings, were almost nil,” Anderson says. “It was a very odd thing to watch. We didn't have that approach of going out to win the game. It was like we were trying to hold on and not lose it.”

They lost it.

In the 11th, Nagy was brought on for the rarest of relief outings. He gave up a leadoff single to Bobby Bonilla. Counsell hit a grounder to the ride side that Fernandez booted at second, moving Bonilla to third.

“Jose Mesa is always the villain, but, to me, Tony Fernandez's error was as big as Bill Buckner's was in the '86 World Series,” Hamilton says. “Buckner is vilified. Fortunately for Tony, he hasn't been.”

Nagy intentionally walked Jim Eisenreich and then gave up Edgar Renteria's Series-winning hit.

Cue the heartbreak.

Ten years have passed since that quiet, depressing flight back to Cleveland. Ten years for Hargrove to digest a season in which his club initially struggled to live up to expectations, then exceeded all expectations in October, only to fall a few outs shy of glory.

Hargrove didn't know what type of team the '97 Indians would be. But now he knows for sure.

“The '95 team was probably a stronger team, but I think the '97 team was a gutsier team,” he says. “It was more of a grinder-type team. It was a real enjoyable team to be around and manage and watch play and probably the team I got the most satisfaction out of.”

Anthony Castrovince is a reporter for MLB.com and indians.com

Travis

48

Hafner

Age: 29, born June 3, 1977
in Jamestown, ND

Position: First Base/DH

B: L **T:** R **Ht:** 6'3" **Wt:** 240



Cliff

31

Lee

Age: 28, born August 30,
1978 in Benton, AR

Position: Pitcher

B: L **T:** L **Ht:** 6'3" **Wt:** 190



Grady

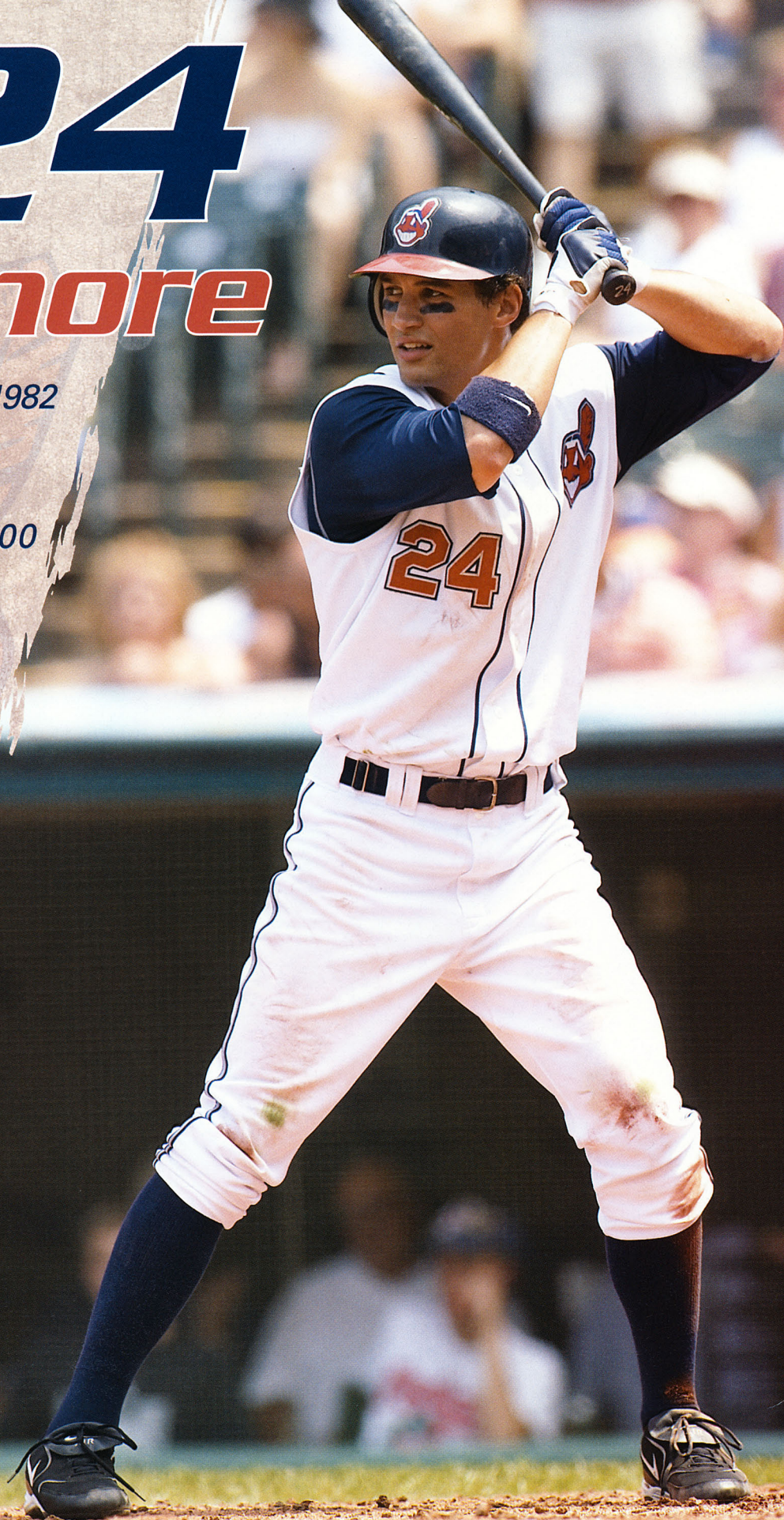
24

Sizemore

Age: 24, born August 2, 1982
in Seattle, WA

Position: Center Fielder

B: L **T:** L **Ht:** 6'2" **Wt:** 200



Carl 51 Willis

Entering his fifth season as the Pitching Coach of the Cleveland Indians after being named to the post on March 19, 2003. The Tribe captured their first ERA title since 1996 in 2005 as they posted an ERA of 3.61 under his tutelage.

Derek 9 Shelton

Is currently in his third season as Indians Hitting Coach after replacing Eddie Murray on June 4, 2005. Prior to that, spent three seasons as Minor League Hitting Coordinator. Indians finished second in runs scored (870) last season in MLB.

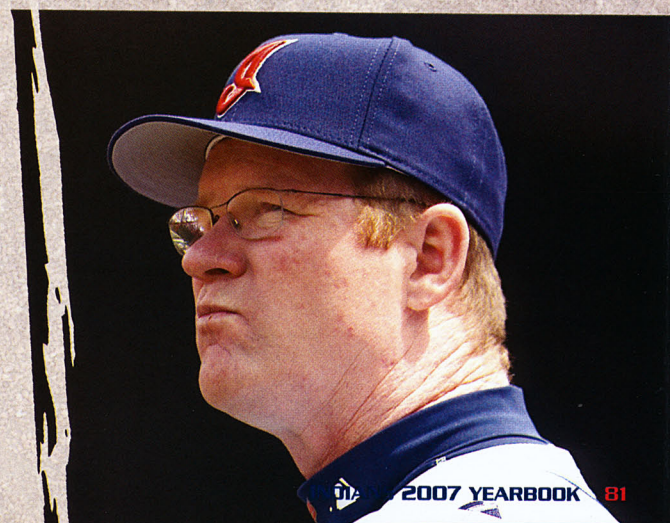
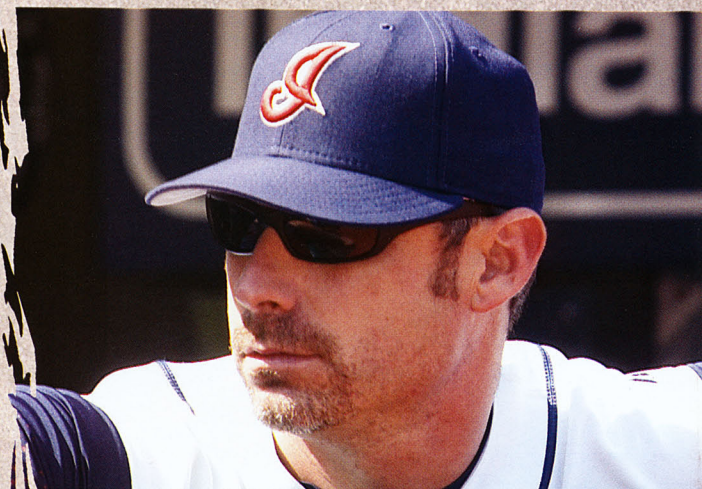
Joel 35 Skinner

As the Indians Third Base Coach, Joel begins his seventh season on the Major League coaching staff after being appointed on November 10, 2000. Joel served as interim manager during the second half of the 2002 season.

Jeff 29 Datz

Is currently in his sixth season on the Major League coaching staff. As the Tribe's Bench Coach, Datz replaced Grady Little on March 20, 2002.

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



coaches

Lonnie Soloff

As Director of Medical Services, Lonnie begins his fourth year with the Indians after spending five years as the assistant athletic trainer and physical therapist for the Cincinnati Reds.

Rick Jameyson

Begins his sixth full season as the Assistant Athletic Trainer of the Cleveland Indians. Rick begins his sixteenth season as an Athletic Trainer in the Indians organization after spending four seasons with the Buffalo Bisons.

Nick Kenney

Begins his third season as the Major League Assistant Athletic Trainer after joining the organization on December 1, 2004 after spending two seasons as the assistant athletic trainer for the Cincinnati Reds.

Tim Maxey

Begins his fifth season as Major League Strength & Conditioning Coach. Spent the 1997 season as Strength Coach for the AAA Buffalo Bisons during their run to the American Association crown.

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

